

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

JUNE 30, 2021

Members of the State Board of Public School Education met in the Peace Garden Room in the North Dakota State Capitol and via Teams on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Sonia Meehl at 1:00 PM. The following State Board members were in attendance for the meeting:

Dr. Steve Holen

Mr. Jeff Fastnacht

Superintendent Kirsten Baesler

Mr. Burdell Johnson

Ms. Maria Effertz Hanson

Ms. Sonia Meehl

Absent: Mr. Josh Johnson

Also present: Jodi Johnson, Allyson Hicks, Alice Johnson, Caryn Woodstead.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fastnacht moved that the minutes of the May 17, 2021, meeting be approved. Mr. Burdell Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to the Board discussing the next agenda item, Mr. Fastnacht asked for clarification from Ms. Hicks as to the legality of the Board hearing the petition based on NDCC§15.1-12-09(2)(b), which states, "Prohibits the acceptance of a new annexation petition involving any real property that is included in the reorganization plan, until all reorganization proceedings have been completed." Ms. Hicks indicated that the important language in that part of the statute is where it says that "all reorganization proceedings have been completed", and that what it does not say is until the reorganization plan is effective. Ms. Hicks further stated that she did some research and referenced the 2001 law relating to this process in which it is made abundantly clear that the proceedings were considered done once the reorganization plan was affirmed by the voters. It is Ms. Hicks legal opinion that the reorganization proceedings have completed, as is required by 15.1-12-09 (2) (b), and although it is not effective yet, that is not required by statute.

REVIEW THE RECORD, DISCUSS, AND TAKE ACTION ON THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY FROM WILLIAMS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8 OF WILLIAMS COUNTY

IN NORTH DAKOTA TO EIGHT MILE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6 OF WILLIAMS COUNTY IN NORTH DAKOTA (BAUSTE PETITION).

The State Board members reviewed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order completed by the Williams County Reorganization Committee, for the annexation of property from Williams County School District No. 8 of Williams County in North Dakota to Eight Mile School District No. 6 of Williams County in North Dakota (Bauste Petition).

A motion was made by Ms. Effertz Hanson to approve the annexation of property from Williams County School District No. 8 to Eight Mile School District No. 6 (Bauste Petition) based on the following findings of facts which weighed most importantly to the board:

- 1) There was no opposition to the annexation at any level.
- 2) The petitioners wish to vote in school elections and run for the school board in the district in which they pay taxes.
- 3) The amount of property to be transferred is reasonable, as well as the valuation per student is reasonable.
- 4) Students are already attending Eight Mile School District No. 6.
- 5) The annexation was approved at the county level by a vote of 5-0.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Fastnacht.

Result of roll call vote:

Dr. Holen – yes

Ms. Effertz Hanson – yes

Superintendent Baesler – yes

Mr. Burdell Johnson – yes

Mr. Fastnacht – yes

Ms. Meehl – yes

Motion passed 6-0.

FINAL APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSION OF LAW, AND ORDER, FOR THE FOLLOWING ANNEXATION (KIZIMA PETITION):

The State Board members reviewed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order as prepared by Allyson Hicks, Assistant Attorney General, for the annexation of property from Nedrose Public School District No. 4 of Ward County in North Dakota to Minot Public School District No. 1 of Ward County in North Dakota (Kizima Petition).

A motion was made by Mr. Fastnacht to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order. The motion was seconded by Dr. Holen.

Result of roll call vote:

Ms. Effertz Hanson – yes

Dr. Holen – yes

Mr. Fastnacht – yes

Mr. Burdell Johnson – yes

Superintendent Baesler – yes

Ms. Meehl – yes

Motion passed 6-0.

FINAL APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSION OF LAW, AND ORDER, FOR THE FOLLOWING ANNEXATION (DIETRICH PETITION):

The State Board members reviewed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order as prepared by Allyson Hicks, Assistant Attorney General, for the annexation of property from Fordville-Lankin Public School District No. 5 of Walsh County in North Dakota to Park River Area Public School District No. 8 of Walsh County in North Dakota (Dietrich Petition).

A motion was made by Mr. Burdell Johnson to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fastnacht.

Result of roll call vote:

Dr. Holen – yes

Ms. Effertz Hanson – yes

Superintendent Baesler – yes

Mr. Fastnacht – yes

Mr. Burdell Johnson – yes

Ms. Meehl – yes

Motion passed 6-0.

CHECK IN - LEARNING CONTINUUM

Superintendent Baesler informed the Board that meetings would be held in the coming week to discuss the continuum for social studies and science and that the following week there would be meetings for the math and English continuum. She shared that there are no other states in the nation that are attempting similar work and stressed that it was her hope

that the tremendous amount of work and energy that will have gone into developing this learning continuum, and the monumental change that this will bring in our state, will not be lost on the Board as it comes before them for approval in the coming months.

She addressed the timeline of the work and stated that it will likely be coming before the State Board of Public School Education in late December of 2021 or early January of 2022 for approval, after it has been presented to the K-12 Education Coordination Council for review in late fall of 2021.

She went on to say that the continuum that is being developed right now will probably have a “shelf life” of three to five years and that something that the State Board of Public School Education should be looking at in the future are ways to fund the work that will be needed to keep the learning continuum current, once the grants that are currently funding the work, are no longer available.

NEXT MEETING

It was decided that there was no need to meet in July or August. The next meeting of the State Board of Public School Education will be held on Monday, September 20, 2021. The annual Joint Boards meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, with ESPB as the host for this year’s meeting.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 PM.